

Caroline M. Breyfogle

Was She A Women Ahead of Her Time?

By Dan Breyfogle

Charles and Matilda J. (Cloud) Breyfogle (1816 – 1884) were parents of 11 children, which they raised for the most part in Columbus, Ohio. Born in Pennsylvania, at the age of sixteen he went to Columbus, Ohio, walking most of the way, and on his arrival there had but a few cents in his pocket. He was quiet and industrious, and became one of the honored and respected citizens of that place.¹ Charles, like many men of his time, was a bit of a dreamer and at one point traveled to California in search of gold.

He was listed in the Yuba County 1850 Census (Page 314) with a residence of Nevada City, near Yuba Valley, CA. And Lewis W. Breyfogle notes that Charles returned to Columbus, OH by way of sailing ship around Cape Horn, South America, and then from the East coast by train. On his return from California with what is described as a “substantial sum” of gold, estimated to be about \$20,000, which was a substantial sum for that time period. Lewis notes that he became a solid citizen providing well for his family and suspected this large sum of gold financed his ventures and his family’s needs well. He also noted that the family of Charles Breyfogle was well educated, three sons were doctors and his daughter was a PHD.

Caroline May Breyfogle²



But this study is not about Charles or his exploits, but about the life of his daughter, his eighth child, Caroline M. Breyfogle. In his writing, Lewis W. Breyfogle mentions Flora (Breyfogle) Grumman many times as one of the first researchers to commit the family history to paper, and at one point writes, “A member of a large and superbly-educated family, Mrs. Grumman spent most of her life as an educator, and at one time was Dean of Women at Ohio State University.”³ Current research can’t find a single reference to Flora Grumman at Ohio State University, but this same research leads one directly to Caroline M. Breyfogle.

To better understand this error and to understand why she is not mentioned one must study the manuscript and note that Lewis W. Breyfogle had no intention of doing more than documenting the

¹ Flora Grumman Papers, P – 6, 1909

² Photograph by Matzene of Chicago, date unknown, Courtesy, Ohio State University Archives

³ What I Know About the Breyfogle Family, Page 6, Lewis W. Breyfogle, 1963

first 5 generations of the family, and he readily admits that his writing is what “he” knows of the family and that any errors or omissions are based on the inability to find more information at the time of the writing. Of Caroline (known to him as Callie) he writes:

Callie M. (born 1861), the eighth child, we know a little more about. As outlined, she rose high in the educational field. She never married, and lived out her last years in Columbus, Ohio. John W. Breyfogle (born 1872) and his wife, visited her in 1937, when at 76, she was in good health. In 1944, I recall, she was reported to be failing. At that time she was 83, and she is believed to have passed away that year.⁴

We include this passage for a frame of reference since research at this time indicates that some of his information was inaccurate. But for the most part between Lewis Breyfogle and Flora Grumman, Caroline Breyfogle received a relative minor notation. In her research Flora Grumman mentions Caroline as follows:

(8) Callie M., born April 9, 1861, is a student of Semitic, studying at Chicago, Illinois, and Berlin, Germany. She has for some years been a teacher at Wellesley, Massachusetts.⁵

Of course when one considers that the work Flora Grumman did on the family history was written in 1909 most of what we know about Caroline today had not taken place. As we will outline below, Caroline was 51 years old before her name began to appear in publications. We do not fault previous researchers for such short mention of this notable person; rather we appreciate the few clues they did leave behind that have helped in our research. As more resources are made available on the Internet it is possible that a more complete picture of her life will be available.

We often try to attribute the success or failure of children to their parents and the way they were brought up. We are not saying this is the right way to look at a person’s life, but we do wonder if the success of Caroline Breyfogle was in some part due to her parents? As mentioned above, her father Charles, followed a dream of riches by traveling to the gold fields of California during the 1849 Gold Rush, and later returned to become a pillar of his community. But what of her mother?

Matilda Cloud, we are told from the Lewis Breyfogle research, was the daughter of Colonel Cloud, “a well known military figure of the day.” Research at this point does not support this assertion; in fact it appears that her father, Robert Cloud, was a minister living in the Urbana and Columbus area. What is of significance is that Matilda is the sixth of 14 children, and she had but two older sisters. This would lead to the conclusion that she was a very important part in keeping the household running smoothly as 8 more children were born after her. So perhaps the daughter of Robert Cloud brought with her a sense of independence and strength that she displayed to her daughter, thus influencing her in a positive manner.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Flora Grumman Papers, P-6, 1909

It is not the purpose of this study to draw any conclusions on her motivations or to speculate too deeply about the circumstances reported about her life. But some of the articles transcribed here do cause us to stop a second and wonder what life would have been like for Miss Caroline May Breyfogle in the turn of the century America. To know in advance that Caroline never married, something almost unheard of during the early 20th century, and that she was highly educated, another unusual thing for a woman attending school before the turn of the century.

Before continuing on, all the articles that appear in this study are transcribed from scanned and photocopied originals. We have reproduced them, for the most part, exactly as they came to us. Where necessary we include the [SIC] notation to show that we either found the original to contain an obvious error or that the material was unreadable. We did not attempt to correct any grammatical changes from the turn of the century writing style to today's usage, we felt it was important to reproduce it as it was published so the reader could get a feel for the way it was presented at the time. We do not claim any copyright privileges to the documents transcribed here, but note all transcriptions, their source, and authors if known.

The first source of information outside of the Flora Grumman papers and the Lewis Breyfogle writing are the 1870 and 1880 Federal Census files for Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio. She is listed as Callie M. Breyfogle, daughter of Charles and Matilda, with her birth location listed as Ohio. The problem with a census file is that it adds no detail other than birth location, age at the person's last birthday, and where they were living at the time of the census. But it does verify some of the information in the research work done by Flora Grumman and Lewis W. Breyfogle.

The first published information concerning the work Caroline Breyfogle available to us at this time was a small New York Times article that mentions her employment at Wellesley College. The article states, "CHICAGO, Sept. 20. - Wellesley College has elected Miss Caroline May Breyfogle of Chicago, a graduate from the historical department of the Chicago University, as Assistant Professor of Biblical History, to succeed Prof. Woolley, who recently became President of Mount Holyoke College.

"Miss Breyfogle's former home was Columbus, Ohio. After being graduated from the university in 1893 she studied in Berlin for two years and then returned here for a final year. During her last term of residence she was [SIC unreadable] at the head of Kelly Hall."⁶

It should also be noted that at about the same time as she was at Wellesley Miss Breyfogle published a short paper titled, "Outlines For Studies In The History Of The Hebrews. Columbus, Ohio: 1901." This, according to antiquarian book indexes was a softbound 33-page document that is considered very rare, meaning it was not widely published.

Caroline M. Breyfogle was elected as the first dean of women, Ohio State University, on September 24, 1912, and began her six years of tenure in this position by assessing the problems that faced the girls she was responsible for. As a Midwest daughter of a working class family, she had completed her education at the Chicago University and by studying for two years in Berlin, Germany. Records indicate that she graduated from Chicago University in 1896 and her

⁶ New York Times, September 21, 1900

PHD was awarded in 1912. It is doubtful that she came to this position with the nativity that most recent graduates would have.

To illustrate this read her comments in October 1912 when asked what her plans were for her new responsibility:

“I haven’t any plans yet,” she tells us, “I can’t have any until I go over the situation thoroughly, get acquainted with the girls and see just what problems we are confronting. I should like to contribute something to the general educational problem; I should like to aid in the personal development of the girl in college and I should like to do something towards enlarging the social side of college life.”⁷

As mentioned before, Miss Breyfogle had previously held a position as Assistant Professor of Biblical History at Wellesley College so this wasn’t her first venture in the institutions of higher learning. But beyond her work background and education, this 51-year-old woman had a spark that was apparent to all who met her. For example, in the same article quoted above the reporter, Nan Cannon, said, “To meet the new dean, to see her eyes light up with enthusiasm, to hear the whole-hearted interest in her tones as she talks of the girls, and anyone would be convinced that the dean is going to do great things for the women of the university.”

This assessment was made in October of 1912 giving this reporter not more than a month exposure to Miss Breyfogle. In this same article an elementary teacher who participated in the introductions of Caroline Breyfogle was quoted as saying, “It was a liberal education to introduce Miss Breyfogle. I learned something every minute of the two hours I stood in line with her. It was charming to watch her meet people. She had something personal and different to say to every one, a way somehow of putting the immediately at ease. You should have seen some of those shy youngsters beam at her. That woman is a ‘find.’”

As much as Caroline took a measured approach upon her introduction to the staff and students at Ohio State University in October 1912, she quickly began her drive for improvements in the conditions for students at the university. An article in the Ohio State University Monthly evidences this where it was reported:

In her address on “Problems for High School Parents,” Caroline S. [SIC] Breyfogle, the new dean of women at Ohio State, emphasized the prime responsibility for health upon the home. In the course of her remarks before the East High Home and School Association in Columbus, Miss Breyfogle also touched upon the subject of high school fraternities. “The high school fraternity is an imitator of the externals of college fraternities” said Miss Breyfogle, “and becomes merely a field fro extravagant and abnormal social life, from which parental control, as well as the

⁷ Ohio State University Monthly, October 1912 Vol. IV No. 2

influence of teaches is excluded.” Spirited discussion followed the address.⁸

A local newspaper carried a full report of this meeting and reported a somewhat different thought about her presentation. It began by reporting that Miss Breyfogle emphasized that. “Proper food, proper clothing, sufficient sleep, daily baths, regular exercise, definite home duties as a relaxation from study and housework for girls were basic health requisites.”⁹

It continues with, “Miss Breyfogle places the prime responsibility for health upon the home,” and she further added, “Upon health depends a girl’s success in school and her happiness in after life.”

“Upon the home she places the further responsibility for the guidance and control of the social instinct of the child, the ‘group instinct,’ as it is called.”¹⁰

The paper then reports that Miss Breyfogle read from a newspaper that was presented to her by Mr. J. C. Hanna, the former principal of East High School and the current principal of the Oak Park High School in Chicago, IL. In this newspaper Mr. Hanna asserts “while college fraternities and sororities have their use in the establishment of small circles, which for college students away from home, supply in some measure the support and stimuli which the family gives to the young person still at home. The high school secret society has absolutely no worth function to perform. The college fraternity has its social externals, but has back of that ideals which it strives to attain.”

But the Ohio Monthly was correct in stating that this subject became an open and lively discussion of the state of education at the local school and many parents voiced concerns about the fraternities, their illegality, and other problems they felt were hindering their student’s progress.

The paper reported the concerns that ranged from a desire for the “Early to Bed Early to Rise” thoughts to a parents question about the lack of a gymnasium at her child’s school. To this Miss Breyfogle stated, “I did not dream that your school did not have one.” This discussion continued with thoughts about the YMCA and mention of the Ohio State University “gymnasium with its shower baths and swimming pool” and how this was helping their community. The discussion on this point ended with a promise from Mrs. Dora Sandoe Bachman of the school board when she stated, “the board realizes the importance of gymnasiums and new buildings will be equipped with them.

It appears as though the staff writer for the Ohio Monthly reduced the report to what was felt to be the salient issues as far as the college was concerned. But the newspaper report offered much more substance and illustrated that Caroline Breyfogle certainly had a speaking style that held the interest of her audience and elicited their participation. There was no other mention of Caroline’s name in this issue of the Monthly and appeared on a page with the lyrics of the Songs

⁸ Ohio State University Monthly, November 1912

⁹ Sandusky Register, Sandusky, OH, November 7, 1912

¹⁰ Ibid

of Ohio State. This was the one and only time that her activities or writings appeared in such a minor way in the Monthly.

The newspaper article, on the other hand, was prominently displayed on page 5 of the newspaper and spanned a single column over half the length of the paper. It was located beside an article titled "Defeated, But Not Discouraged, Taft Plans for Part's Future". The article was a report on the former president's attempts to first reorganize his party after his defeat in the recent election.

In fact the very next month Caroline wrote and published what can only be considered as a major work and stated her thoughts on the need for women to take hold of their college lives and become involved in their own non-academic destiny.

Instead of trying to paraphrase this article we reproduce it here in its entirety, see if you don't agree how profound her thoughts are on this subject, and her ability to get her point across.

Women and Self-Government

The new dean of women, Caroline M. Breyfogle, is a woman of wide vision and clear perception. She does not forge blindly ahead in the first flush of enthusiasm, without knowing the path she is to make for herself; but it eager to analyze the situation, as it relates to the women of the University, that she may devise plans that center around their best interests.

Recently the women of Ohio State have voted to pass rules placing their government and liberties in their own hands and to make, if possible, a fuller place for themselves in the life of the campus. At the suggestion of the Old Grad, Miss Breyfogle has written a discussion on this newest phase of self-government, which reads as follows: -

"Student self-government was initiated about 20 years ago in the desire to bridge the ever widening chasm between student and teacher. It was thought that it would preserve the student's point of view for the teacher and initiate the student into the problems of administration in matters non-academic. In practical outworking, these associations proved the most effective method of student control, developing leadership, public spirit and a certain humanism which earnest students are too prone to hold at a discount. At the present time, the democratic principle is the *raison d' etre* as apposed to the autocratic or patriarchal form of government existent in schools and colleges 25 years ago. Instead of controlling the life of women students by regulations which do not regulate, and endeavor is made to change the content of the student consciousness, to enlarge and enrich groupal opinion and to create a social atmosphere which would mould individual will

and action. Such a method carries one further afield and may be misunderstood by onlookers but it develops a higher type of student and citizen.

“Modern college athletics is a striking illustration of this very thing. Football might be called almost a national cult. The players trained and experienced by work in high schools and colleges. Performs vicariously for the great body of student spectators who are real participants in the game. The slogans, the cheers, the college songs are an essential part of the contest. A groupal consciousness is developed to which each man and woman makes his contribution, for the best interested shows concern for the victory of his own college team. This football consciousness is unique to American college life. It gives rise to great individual players, it creates an athletic type unknown in European universities where an athletic spirit is lacking.

“Student government is an instrument for the creation of another kind of student consciousness or public opinion to which contributions are made by representatives of every type of student sentiment. The meetings held by the women in the interest of self-government made a fair beginning at this very thing. Meeting as a unit for the first time this year, the women looked into one another’s faces, took stock of individual women, discussed a live proposition concerning their vital interests and formed a judgment expressed by the personal vote. There was enough difference of opinion to cause a spirited discussion concerning the two points at issue; the principle of Self-government and the By-Laws. The work of the association was shown to be two-fold; in the small group, the maintenance of the conventions of the social life of the community; in the large group, the protection of the principles of self-government, the gradual enlargement and enrichment of the interests of college women. Such meetings are worthwhile for the unification of the student body and for the opportunity offered everyone to make her individual contribution to public opinion, and after all, is not the community consciousness shaping character more effectively than the sentiments uttered in the classroom? If the, the students voluntarily seek to shape the public opinion rather than leaving it to haphazard, may then not produce greater men and a greater University than any amount of external, authoritative control might do? There are many byproducts of self-government, the training in team work, the subordination of oneself to the spiritual alma mater. Above all, perhaps, will come the sense of obligation for the college ideal evolved in this academic center and its efficiency in the service of the state.

“It is hoped that the Women’s Council may not only consider such questions of internal interest as the honor system, senior advisers for freshman girls, the general question of chaperonage, but that the larger problems of vocational training may come before them this year.”¹¹

It is interesting to note that in her Obituary printed in the Monthly, it was reported that Miss Breyfogle came to the University in 1912 following agitation on the part of Women’s Student Council and women graduates.”¹² So it is no wonder that she tackled this very tough topic within her first few months of being Dean. In reading this article and later in transcribing it I found that she was able to communicate very articulately the need for student government and self-determination without yielding to the mob rule that surely was on the University’s mind.

Beyond speaking and writing Caroline pressed forward with the needs of the women in OSU and it was reported in the March 1913 Monthly that she spoke at the Annual Alumnae Club Banquet held March 9, 1913. At this luncheon she “discussed the women’s building which is to be erected upon the campus and the opportunity presented for the broadening of the present field of usefulness of the club.”¹³

It is interesting to note that in the October 1912 article of the Monthly Miss Breyfogle had stated “she would like to see all the girls not able to get into Oxely, housed in some large annex nearby; but all together where they would have some community life and table talk, which she thinks one of the most stimulating things about college life.”¹⁴ And as was reported five-months later a new building had been approved for construction. It is obvious that her hard work and dedication helped make the new building more than a discussion point.

In reviewing the life of Caroline an article appeared in the Indiana Evening Gazette (Indiana, PA) in which she had made a declaration about a dress code for students at Ohio State University. When one considers the conservative society of the early 20th century it is a wonder that her position was not directly opposite to the report in this paper.

IT GOES AT OHIO STATE

Girl Students Can Wear Any Kind of Skirt

Columbus, O., Sept. 20. – Co-eds who want to wear the X-ray and the slit skirt can find a haven at Ohio State University. Several Ohio universities have put a ban on these new forms of women’s wear, but Dean Caroline Breyfogle of the women’s department at State says she is too busy to issue edicts against prevailing fashions.

¹¹ Ohio State University Monthly, December 1912

¹² First Dean Dies, The Ohio State University Monthly, November 1941

¹³ Ohio State University Monthly, March 1913, Vol. 4, No. 7

¹⁴ Ohio State University Monthly, October 1912 Vol. IV No. 2

At a gathering of 1,000 women students practically all forms of new gowns were exhibited from the exaggerated slash to the transparent skirt.¹⁵

One wonders if she was busy attending to the need of new buildings and facilities of the university, or if she was speaking of problems with the girls attending college. Just four days after this article was published it was reported, “Miss Carolina [SIC] Breyfogle, dean of women at the State University, went to the police headquarters today to personally investigate the case of the girl.”¹⁶ In this article it was reported that a young woman of 24, Isabel Arthur, was under investigation for, “the passing of several checks upon Columbus firms, which have come back from the banks upon which they were drawn marked ‘no funds.’”

It also reported that Miss Breyfogle said, “Miss Arthur registered at the university about a week ago and it has been noticed about the university that she acted rather strangely and seemed to be of a very nervous disposition.” The police reported finding twelve checks passed by the girl and that “Miss Breyfogle spent some time questioning the girl in private in Chief Carter’s office today.”

This story was also reported in another paper and it was stated that Miss Breyfogle had arranged housing for this girl at a boarding house where she was later arrested.¹⁷ This article reported that the girl was forced to remove her dress purchased with the bad checks and that she was given a nightgown to spend the night in jail. The girl was reported to say that she would make restitution on the bad checks and no further articles can be found on this matter.

The next University article concerning Caroline and her work on behalf of the women attending Ohio State University came at the start of the 1913/1914 school year. It was reported that Miss Breyfogle had spent the summer making preparations for the upcoming year, which included a new “big sister movement” that provided an upper-classmen to take charge of the incoming freshmen and help them get adjusted to college life. It was also reported that she was conducting Biblical Literature courses that had become very popular at the University.

In this same article there was mention of the remodeling of Orton Hall, to make it into a woman’s building. The article attributed these changes in facilities and the hard work of the new dean resulted in the increase in women entering the University. One underlying theme that seems to come through all the articles available during this time period leads the reader to understand that Caroline Breyfogle was fighting a pitched battle against the prejudice that surrounded women entering college. The article below illustrates this theme in a very clear manner.

College Education for Women

T HE HIGHER EDUCATION of Women in the Middle West” was the subject of an interesting talk by Dean Caroline

¹⁵ Indian Evening Gazette, Indiana, PA, September 22, 1913

¹⁶ The Newark Daily Advocate, Newark, OH, September 26, 1913

¹⁷ The Lima Daily News, Lima, OH, September 26, 1913

Breyfogle at the January meeting of the Alumnae Club. Miss Breyfogle spoke of the early prejudice against women entering the colleges, and showed how the old arguments of physical disability, lowering of the standard of scholarship, and decrease in the number of marriages, were without foundation. "Women of to-day are taller, stronger, and healthier than the women of thirty years ago," said Miss Breyfogle. "They rank slightly higher than men in scholarship, and the number of marriages of college women and of those not going to college averages about the same.

"Women are gradually segregating themselves," she said. "A smaller percentage of women enter distinctly masculine professions to-day than when the colleges were first opened to them. In this age of specialization women specialize in the feminine pursuits. Experts perform many of the old home duties better than the mistress of the house. Woman's activities are no longer limited to the home because the home does not demand so much of her. We send our children to schools for their educations. When they are ill we send for a trained nurse. The weaving, sewing, and much of the cooking is done outside the home. Nevertheless the directing hand of woman is not lacking in the household, and she is becoming more efficient through broader mental training and greater freedom."¹⁸

In this same issue of the Monthly it was reported in an article titled, "Problems Confronting College Women" by Caroline M. Breyfogle, Dean of Women, "Just 880 women students are enrolled in the Ohio State University this year. Of this number 437 are city girls, 36 are women living at home by using the trolley lines each day, 24 are living with relatives or intimate friends of the family, Oxley Hall accommodates 53, the Annex 10, 12 more coming into the hall of residence for meals. St. Hilda's Hall, the Episcopal Church house for Episcopalian students, houses 15, leaving 293 women dependent upon lodgings in the vicinity of the University."¹⁹

This full-page article went on to report that Miss Breyfogle was personally inspecting the off campus housing to make sure it was worthy of habitation. She established an approved list, which was reported, "fast becoming an advantage both to the students and to the landladies." She went on to discuss a conference she attended at Chicago University concerning these issues. The point was raised at this conference about young women that would exchange their labor to pay for these accommodations and the concerns that many young women were not prepared for the duties that they were asked to perform, stating, "Women wholly unfitted by physical or by previous training, sometimes apply for work in the home in exchange for room and board. Often the girl has done nothing in her own home more arduous than dishwashing or in one case than embroidery upon chiffon."²⁰ Miss Breyfogle continued her thoughts about that the exchange of labor for housing by stating, "Women should remember that a fair return of services must be

¹⁸ Ohio State University Monthly, January 1914 Vol. 5, No. 5, Page 18

¹⁹ Ibid, Page 20

²⁰ Problems Confronting College Women, by Caroline M. Breyfogle, Ohio State University Monthly, January 1914

made for value received and that in most cases self-support means a real sacrifice of academic proficiency or of participation in the life of the college community.”²¹

She concluded this article by stating, “Our students are young, just emerging from that period when ‘to have a good time’ is the ruling passion. Faith in the growth of the young even through mistakes is quite consistent with an ardent desire to hasten the process, to create a social conscience, to give our women another goal in life other than that of popularity. And college training is doing this very thing for the city and state.”²²



Oxley Hall, Ohio State University, Building 102, 1712 Neil Avenue

Before you come to the conclusion that Caroline Breyfogle enjoyed unbridled success at OSU it should be noted that near the end of the 1913/1914 school year Miss Breyfogle broached the topic of the terrible living conditions at the college. Her lengthy report and article is so powerful that it seems appropriate to reproduce it in its entirety.

For those that may not want to read the entire article it is best summarized by stating that she reported the rapid growth of women entering the University from 1900 through 1913, yet the percentage of women to men peaked in 1910, and that the actual percentage had dropped nearly a point from 1910 through 1913. The text of her article is ripe with her concern over this loss and for the deplorable conditions of housing that existed at that time. Again referring to her introductory article when she was elected to this position in 1912 she noted the poor conditions and had a goal of improving them. But as you read the accompanying article you can see how frustrated she is over the lack of funding and cooperation on making these improvements.

The first several paragraphs are a report on the number of students and their housing arrangements, but once past this analytical look at the condition the reader is drawn into a dialog. Although this article is over 90 years old, the passion and concern for this topic become quickly

²¹ Ibid

²² Problems Confronting College Women, by Caroline M. Breyfogle, Ohio State University Monthly, January 1914

evident. She certainly had the ability to draw others into the problem, but what of action on the concerns?

Women in the University

Caroline M. Breyfogle

The Ohio State University is committed to co-education; but through the sympathy and faith in women on the part of the President and board of trustees, it is in reality co-education. Everything in all the class rooms is open to women as well as men.

The first problem we have and the most important is our housing problem. In 1900 we had 239 women. That is the first year the count of women was given. In 1905 we had 314 women; in 1910 we had reached 809; in 1911, 877; in 1912, 921; in 1913, 1,040.

Now, as rapid an increase in the number of women as that seems to have been, as a matter of fact we have not held our own in proportion to the whole body of students. For example, in 1900 17 per cent were women. In 1910 we reached the largest per cent, 28.8. In 1911 we were reduced to 28.7 per cent. In 1912 28.1 per cent of the students were women. This year only 28 per cent are women. So since 1910 we have practically lost .8 per cent.

Now in the housing proposition, we have had during the winter quarter 881 women, 403 of these are city girls, 36 of them living at their homes and come to college by means of traction lines, 20 live with friends, and 17 are working their way through college by working for their room and board, making 510 who are cared for, or 57 per cent.

Dormitory facilities: At Oxley Hall we accommodate 63; at the Annex 10 more; at St. Hilda's 16; Alpha Phi accommodates 9, and Newman Club – it does not call itself a club – accommodates 10.

Now that totals 107, or 12.1 per cent. That is, of the whole number of women in the college on 12.1 per cent are cared for in this way. We have a number of women in houses accommodating three students or over. We have 126 women in 21 different houses, averaging six to a house. The number of women in houses accommodating less than three, most of them scattered, one or two in a house. We have 138 women in 99 different houses – that is, we have 120 houses with 264 women in them, 30 per cent of the women living in this way – out of town women. Now of this number there are 200 that I know of who skirmish for their meals.

In Oxley Hall there will be nine vacancies next year, and we have 80 or 90 applicants and more coming in every day, and parents saying that they will allow their daughters to come if they can secure accommodations in Oxley Hall.

In this housing problem I try to treat everything in relation to the whole university. First, the lack of university dormitories. Responsibility to no one. It is very difficult to make sanitary inspection. They are crowded, ill ventilated, inadequately heated, and sometimes lacking of hot water for bathing facilities. These 200 who live in these houses and go out for meals, sometimes they eat irregular meals at irregular hours and illy nourished I think, from the numbers that have to withdraw on account of ill health. That there are those now in a nervous state is proved every day from women coming into my office. I am sure you will believe me when I say a large part of the nervousness and break-downs are due to inadequate housing. It is a menace to students because women are living in comparative isolation, 30 percent gleaning only the benefits of the class room, or, if less fortunate, living in the lodging houses they suffer an absolute loss in refinement and standards of behavior. When I see the fine things for refinement and character that is exerted every year on the women students at Oxley Hall, I can understand how effective that is in developing in our women the right standards of home life. This influence of refinement is necessary for women, for that is no less another college course than instruction in the college studies. The University owes that duty to the student. It has no right to bring women here unless it does what it can to insure living quarters healthful, socially desirable and morally safe. The University is not a teaching machine. It is a community of faculty and students, and it is bound to the state, it seems to me, by every moral obligation in the life of a woman.

Now, an appreciation of this is shown in many ways. First, in the decrease of women students attending the University. I think this decrease is due to the fact that we have no university dormitories in which to house our women. Parents hesitate to send their daughters because they can't be taken care of. I don't believe any man here would send his daughter away from home – Columbus – send a young girl just out of high school to live here and take her meals at cafeterias and restaurants, and expect her to get the highest standards of refinement out of the college course.

Now it shows to you the fact that we are turning from our doors many women who would do credit to our university, and that we are failing of our usefulness to the residents of the state outside of

Columbus, and we are causing ourselves to be an object of reproach in the eyes of neighboring colleges. The women of this university have become quite impatient about the unfair comparison made between some of the neighboring universities and the Ohio State University to the disadvantage of this university. We need first of all dormitories. We need college dormitories where the women can have about them all the beautiful home influences or receive all the beautiful home influences, and where they can have good food at the table and most reasonable rates, and where there will be social rooms and a place where the women can have their dances. We need also a chain of houses. I asked last year if we could take the last remaining house upon the campus, Dr. Denny's – if we might have that house fixed over and an addition made to it. Which would cost about two thousand dollars, I asked if we might have that as an annex to Oxley Hall. They have more rooms for table boarders there than they can accommodate, and it has not been deemed wise, at least this permission has not been given. Today I asked this association for one of two things. We want a chain of houses for this university on Eleventh avenue in the vicinity of the university where we could get a woman in our own economics department like Mrs. _____ [SIC] and whom we might place in charge of one of these houses for the dining room. Or, I might ask this: take this house on the ground, turn it into a building for fifteen or sixteen people, and then ask the legislature to build this chain of houses. I am in a position of the person trying to make bricks with straw.

What I would like to have the legislature do is to give me money to get this chain of houses or help in some other form. Another thing I would ask for. I would like a new infirmary here. We have two women at the present time – two girls in the hospital in the city. Neither can afford to be in a hospital for any length of time. It seems to me it is important for both men and women.

We have two other things, on the Home Economics. I don't think I need to say anything about that. They have 286 registered in Home Economics; 489 electing courses in economics. The need for more room is imperative. 489 women studying Home Economics. It is as large as the law school, pharmacy and veterinary departments combined.

There is another thing, and that is the Gymnasium. There are three purposes for the Gymnasium for women. One is the discovery and correction of physical defects. The second is to prevent the impairment of their health during college life. The third is to give them rational habits of life and the right ideal physical health.

Now, in our gymnasium activity. We are really dependent upon high schools to discover and correct these physical defects women might have. There is a good deal done to prevent impairment of health in the college course. I had two girls come into my office today. Both lapsing in their work but both working hard; they are in a high state of nervous strain. I said to them, "Are you doing your gymnasium work?" They said, "Yes, it is the only blessing we have. I do not know what would happen to us if we did not have that gymnasium work."

Now In the way of developing positive ideals. We have lectures in hygiene.

Now what is our gymnasium suffering from? From a lack of room. It has an armory. It has a great big bare room, never made for a woman's gymnasium. There are so many interests housed there that it is unsatisfactory for the women. The increase of students is so great that a considerable per cent of students have to defer their exercise. There are four girls to a locker. When they undress for gymnasium work they lay their clothes around the swimming pool. The dressing rooms are overcrowded. There is not only danger of contagion, but it has actually happened.

This gymnasium is for the men. We want a new gymnasium for the women. It is no place for women. We would like to have a field for sports. Perhaps we might get that without any appropriation.²³

The research at this point does not lead us to believe that any of the items requested in this article occurred any time soon. In fact it is interesting to note that the only writing of hers that was published in the Monthly came exactly a year later. One wonders if the harsh words she expressed in this article were met with disfavor and silenced her for an extended period, or if she was attending to matters that prevented further publication of her thoughts.

Our research has no basis for reaching the conclusion that she was restricted from writing further articles in the Ohio Monthly, but it does seem a coincidence. But Caroline remained busy during 1913 and 1914 with several articles being published in local papers. The first article was a follow-up to actions that occurred in January of 1913 and highlighted that Caroline promoted a club for the married students. The Lima Daily News reported about one of their hometown girls entering college when her husband registered for a course in Columbus. When Mrs. Jacob Bowers, known to her friends as Blanche B. Bowers entered Ohio State University she was shocked upon entering the first week of classes to receive a note from the Dean of Women that was reported to say, "Please report at once to the dean."²⁴

²³ Ohio State University Monthly, April-May, 1914, Volume 5, No. 8-9, pp 32 - 34

²⁴ The Lima Daily News, Lima, OH, May 11, 1914

It seems that the address that Mrs. Bowers reported on her entry form, 1609 Highland Street, was for a grocery store with apartments above. Miss Breyfogle knew that access to these apartments was, “reached in more or less labyrinthine fashion by means of a rear stairway.”

The article continues, “ ‘I want to make sure,’ the dean announced at length, ‘that the young women of the university are properly chaperoned in the places where they live. And that’s what I seek to find out in your case.’ “

In the resulting conversation it was revealed that the young woman was married and well chaperoned, and at that point Miss Breyfogle realized that the marital status of the girls at OSU was not noted and she sought to change that omission. The article continues, “they fell into serious conversation with regard to congeniality of college study and matrimony, and the net result was that, if there were a dozen or so of married co-eds – well , shy wouldn’t it be a perfectly excellent idea to form a college organization new to Ohio State University, a club of university Mesdames?”

In this May 1914 article it was revealed that, “Now the amalgamated wives of O.S.U – known as the Ohio State University Dames – constitute a membership of 40, and new members are being added at each club meeting.”

Not more than a year after declaring that she did not have time to get involved with setting policies about student dress Caroline publicly addressed an issue of “too much society” at OSU. In doing this she displayed her desire to promote education through good study and work habits while leaving girls the freedom to dress as they wished. The article follows:

‘Callers’ Three Nights a Week

Too much “society” at Ohio State University is given as the reason for the latest proposal which has been made by Miss Caroline Breyfogle, university dean of women, to the effect that the ‘varsity girls receive “callers” only three nights in the week. Miss Breyfogle has found that many of the male students ignore the fact that the girls need study nights to keep in touch with their college work. So she has proposed to the girls of Oxley hall, the big girls’ dormitory, that they make new rules to govern matters social and that one of these rules bar social calls excepting on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The “co-eds” have taken kindly to the suggestion, for, as a general rule, they take their college work more seriously than the college young men.²⁵

One wonders about this level of control over the life of the women at OSU, especially coming from their advocate. In the spring of 1914 she argues in very vocal terms that the girls need equal treatment, yet this rule appears almost like a paternal control over their social life. Yet she

²⁵ The Elyria Democrat, Elyria, OH, October 1, 1914

previously declined an opportunity to control their choice in clothing, essentially declining to enforce a dress code as it is referred to today.

What is very interesting about the article above is that report indicated that the girls “have taken kindly” to the suggestion, which leads one to believe that this policy change was accepted and passed. But an article appeared in another paper about a week later and informed its readers that this rule change must have met with the disapproval of the girls in general. We have no evidence to support our thoughts on this subject, but can only assume this rule change met with more than passing resistance. Here is the article as written:

Co-eds Win Right To Have Date Each Night

Columbus, O., Oct. 8 – Co-eds of Ohio State University protested the ruling of Miss Caroline Breyfogle, women’s dean, allowing the girls only three nights a week to receive callers.

The protest was loud and long and won for the young women students the right to enjoy social life any evening of the week. Just because a girl is a co-ed is no reason her rights to enjoy her evening should be curtailed, the girls asserted.²⁶

Another interesting point comes to mind when you compare the two articles. In the first article, obviously written with Miss Breyfogle’s thoughts in mind, the women are offered a suggestion by their Dean, which they are to take action on through a rule change within their own self-government. The second article makes it sound like this rule change was dictated and the girls had to fight against the oppression of the administration.

So which was it? There is no way to tell based on the two articles, but knowing that “bad news” is what sells the papers, we must assume that the truth of all of this must lie somewhere in the middle of the two stories.

As mentioned before, Caroline’s publication in the Ohio Monthly did not appear for over a year, and regardless of the reason for this passage of time it is important to present her final work as she wrote it. The article involved a discourse on what the world expects of a college woman and gives a real insight to her thoughts of her place in the world as well as those in her charge.

What Does the World Expect From a College Woman?

By Caroline M. Breyfogle
Dean of Women, The Ohio State University

Whether the world of the college graduate receives her with sympathy or merely with forbearance, whether it be conscious of the standards by which it tests her out or whether it be not so conscious, there are certain elements regarded as the legitimate

²⁶ Marion Daily Star, Marion, OH, October 8, 1914

product of education, the lack of which is always noted with disappointment and comment,

The first of these might be termed *womanliness*. By womanliness is not meant that false valuation of herself which makes one a parasite on the community, enduring existence until such a time as marriage shall provide one who shall lay at her feet the fruits of his toil and who shall serve as a buffer between herself and all that is harsh and disagreeable in life. On the contrary, womanliness believes in co-partnership of labor; it implies a difference between the feminine and masculine character and their ultimate contribution to the community. It realizes the future of a woman is “hers to make, not to receive.”

Again, the world expects the graduate to be *trained*. Whether this training should be vocational is the mooted question. Shall our colleges and universities turn out architects and interior decorators or women students who know the principles of design, who have a feeling for beauty of form and color, leaving the strictly vocational skill to be acquired in the industry itself. However, the problem works itself out, the tools for the reasonable mastery of the concrete job should be acquired in college. Training of mind and character should lead to the basic qualities of accuracy, concentration, thoroughness and responsibility. This much is expected by the college girl’s world and who shall say that the expectation is an unreasonable one?

The third characteristic ascribed to a college graduate is *cultivation*. The college student is supposed to have lived through the great moments of the world which tested men’s souls. She has followed the progress of man from small beginnings, learning to speak his language to read his literature, to appreciate his art, to interpret his social environment, to analyze his philosophy and religion, to admire his discoveries and practical inventions, to forecast his future. She has thought great thoughts, dreamed great dreams, been inspired by great visions both human and divine – will she not be a creature of broader sympathies, keener understanding, finer feeling for the true and beautiful, a contempt for the vulgar, and immortal a more delicate consideration for the experiences and opinions of others, a more reverent appreciation of the good? If she is not all this, do not her friends share more disappointment and perplexity concerning education in general and college education in particular?

Lastly, her little world expects to possess a *prophetic vision, a philosophy of life*, an orientation which shall hold her steadfast

when practical difficulties obscure and oppress. Shall the four years of college life simply prolong the period of youth and preparation, making our women still more adaptable, personally charming but blunderers who know not the chart of life? To steer one's bark by a star implies a knowledge of the heavens as well as an art in handling the craft. Both should become the possession of our women; a philosophic or religious orientation and some little skill in the art of living that the craft be kept true to its course and come in the end to its desired haven.²⁷

The reader should note that we postulated that perhaps the strong language of Caroline's 1914 writing tended to silence her in the Ohio State University Monthly, but it did not mean that she was silent in other media. The following article, although not attributed directly to Miss Breyfogle, did mention her and her continuing activity as Dean of Women at OSU, no doubt her survey of women graduates had begun earlier in 1916.

Many College Women Marry University Men

The women students in journalism in the Ohio State university publish one a week in the Daily Lantern a page called "The Co-Editor". This week's department contained the following remarks on matrimony:

"What kind of men do Ohio State girl graduates marry? Well, according to statistics, 45 percent of those who married chose college men. Dean Caroline M. Breyfogle sent out 886 cards to graduates of the Colleges of Arts and Education. Four hundred and twenty-four cards were returned, and of that number, 229 are single, 195 are married, six being widowed.

"It seems that the better educated a girl is the more she demands of the man she intends to "love, honor and cherish". But is a college education the highest type of education? Truly, it is a fine thing, but what of that practical, worldly education which develops some of the finest citizens, who are helping to make this country the foremost nation? The cynical philosopher says: 'It takes all kinds to make a world, and some of the biggest fools in the country are college graduates'. This may account for the fact that 21 girls married bankers and merchants or other substantial business men.

"This record shows no divorces and only six widows. But what about the 462 who did not answer? Those who did not marry reported readily enough, for some girls really do seem to glory in their single blessedness."²⁸

²⁷ Ohio State University Monthly, May 1916 Vol. VII No. 9, p 18

²⁸ Lima Times Democrat, Lima, OH, December 20, 1916

It must be noted that Europe was politically unsettled and headed for war by 1915 and although the United State tried to stay neutral in this war, it was becoming very evident by the election of 1916 that America would soon be joining the battle. In the spring of 1917 an article appeared telling of the need to train women to help support the military should we end up in war. On March 29, 1917 the Newark Daily Advocate, Newark, OH reported that the National League for Women's Service was going to "open a school of instruction for women."

This instruction was to teach women to drive an automobile and to be able to make simple repairs. The goal was to use women to drive vehicles to deliver supplies for troops, "in case of war." Incidentally, the US declared war on Germany on April 6, 1917, just a little over a week after this "Associated Press Telegram" article appeared. Included in this article was the first mention of Caroline and her work on behalf of the war effort.

Social Service units also are being organized, so as to include all classes of women. Dean Carolyn [SIC] Breyfogle of Ohio State University is active in the work of the league and expects to enlist practically all of the 1,300 girl students at the university in some branch of the service.

It is planned to have a complete catalogue of all women in Ohio whose services might be valuable to the country in case of war. Miss Harriet Mason of Cleveland, is in charge of the work of the league among women of the rural communities. Mrs. Hoadley of Cincinnati, wife of former Governor Hoadley, is head of the Ohio branch of the league.²⁹

By June the women of Ohio had mobilized an effort to draw all the women's groups in the state into a force to do whatever was necessary to support the war effort. The article reported a meeting of these groups to discuss their plans, mentioning that, "the first great outstanding problem the women will approach will be that of food conservation and home thrift."³⁰

The article notes that 27 Ohio organizations attended the session and listed Miss Caroline Breyfogle, dean of women, Ohio State University as attending. The article stated:

It is contemplated, under the national council's program, that the state division organize as a committee and name a chairman for each city and town."

These local chairmen are to form city and town committees by gathering together representatives of all the local women's organizations.

²⁹ The Newark Daily Advocate, Newark, OH, March 29, 1917

³⁰ The Evening Telegram, Elyria, OH, June 8, 1917

Caroline's tenure as Dean of Women at OSU came to an end in 1918, perhaps as a result of her problems in getting cooperation from the administration, or perhaps as a result of the June 1917 conference noted above. She left, as it seems from the notice in the Monthly, very quietly with no farewell article. The following notice was all that marked the end of her term:

Dean of Women Resigns

Miss Caroline M. Breyfogle, the first dean of women at Ohio State, resigned her position July 17, after six years of service, to do work for the State Council of National Defense and the Y.W.C.A. Miss Arema O'Brien, '15, assistant to the dean, has resigned also and has taken a position as teacher of English and critic teacher in the normal school at Bowling Green.

Mrs. George L. Converse, wife of Colonel Converse, is acting dean of women until such time as Dr. Thompson returns and a permanent appointment is made.³¹

If she left the university because of problems with the administration she certainly did not mention it publicly, her retirement announcement was front-page news in one local paper but said nothing of any rift with the college.

Miss Breyfogle Resigns

Columbus, July 18. – The resignation of Miss Caroline M. Breyfogle as dean of women of Ohio State University has been sent to the board of trustees of the university. Miss Breyfogle plans to devote her time to war work. She has been dean of women at the university since the position was created six years ago. Coming here from Wellesley College, where she had been professor of Biblical literature for six years.³²

Dr. Breyfogle resigned her position in July of 1918 and an article appeared in the paper in September that mentions her and her new assignment.

Y.W.C.A War Work

Chairman of Six Ohio Districts Are Announced

Columbus, Sept. 4. – Chairman of six Ohio districts in the Y.W.C.A. war work campaign have been appointed as follows: Mrs. J. S. Willhelm, Canton; Miss Caroline Breyfogle, Columbus;

³¹ Ohio State University Monthly, October 1918, Vol. X No. 1, p - 12

³² The Lancaster Daily Eagle, Lancaster, OH, July 18, 1918

Mrs. T. J. Hoppes, Springfield; Mrs. James N. Fleming, Cleveland. Districts are made to follow the main centers of war industry.

An army of girls in war industries already musters the strength of the American army overseas, according to the announcement by Mrs. W. W. Milar of Akron, state chairman of the Y.W.C.A. war work campaign. There are 1,500,000 women in the service here. The government has asked the Y.W.C.A to form war service centers in 22 monition camps of the country, so that the girl laborers will have proper recreation.³³

Having read the article describing her new assignment we do speculate if the reason she left the university was her position on the war itself. In the conference she attended just before her resignation she advocated a very active role for women in the war effort, we do wonder if the university took issue with this effort or asked her to curtail her efforts to openly support the war effort and to get the women of OSU signed up as she said she would.

Although research continues on the remaining years of her life and work, at this point little is known other than her speaking engagements in the years between 1919 and 1923. The first public engagement reported following her resignation at OSU came in November of 1919.

Outlining the many things a women can do Miss Caroline Breyfogle gave an interesting address to two hundred women Tuesday afternoon in Taylor hall.

Miss Breyfogle was brought to Newark by the Unity Reading Circle, and the guests were the members of the City Federation of Women's clubs and other women of the city. The program opened with a sextet number by the members of the Women's Music club. Miss Breyfogle is a graduate of the University of Chicago and studied some time at Wellesley. For six years she was dean of the women's college of Ohio State University. She took for her topic Tuesday "Woman's Real Business as a Citizen," and told of the important part she should play in civic endeavor.

The program concluded with a trio number by the Music club members. Women attended from Hanover, Hebron and Granville.³⁴

In the introductory article when Caroline came to the University it was stated, "She has taken a house at 16 East Fourteenth Avenue – in the heart of the university settlement – and this she hopes to make a rendezvous for college women."³⁵ A copy of the 1920 Federal Census for

³³ Elyria Evening Telegram, Elyria, OH, September 5, 1918

³⁴ The Newark Daily Advocate, Newark, OH, November 20, 1919

³⁵ Ohio State University Monthly, October 1912 Vol. IV No. 2, Nan Cannon, p - 11

Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio shows that she continued to live at this address. She does not have any other person shown living with her.

In the early part of 1921 Caroline is reported to be involved with the YWCA in support of their effort to present citizenship classes. An excerpt of the article appears below:

STUDY OF POLITICS WILL BE CONTINUED BY WOMEN THROUGH Y W

As a continuation of the citizenship classes which were held at the Y.W.C.A. rooms last fall, the Open Forum committee of the Y.W.C.A. has arranged the following program of discussions of politics for the women.

February 8. The coming legislature – Miss Breyfogle³⁶

The previous article was buried in the middle of the newspaper, but in early February an Ohio paper gave a much larger report of the session on the front page of the paper. Her remarks were obviously well accepted and the article is transcribed below.

WOMEN VOTERS ARE URGED TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE PART IN EFFORTS TOWARD BETTER LAWS

Miss Carolyn [SIC] Breyfogle, chairman of the Franklin County League of Women voters, was introduced to a large crowd of women Tuesday evening in the Y.W.C.A. rooms, by Miss Helen O. Brown, president of the local Y.W. association.

Miss Breyfogle was most enthusiastically received and her address on “The Coming Legislature” proved intensely interesting, as well as instructive.

Her opening remarks were in the nature of an urgent appeal to the women to take an interest in the laws coming into the state legislature and national congress and that they make an appeal for the relief of the wronged, the oppressed and suffering children of the poor. She asked them to be interested in the making of laws that would cover and solve all problems presenting themselves. Miss Breyfogle says that public opinion passes the bills before congress and that public opinion sustains these laws after they are passed. All great measures, such as suffrage and prohibition originated outside of any political party and were put thru [SIC] by public opinion, she said.

³⁶ Coshocton Tribune, Coshocton, OH, January 24, 1921

The speaker brought before the people the good that could be accomplished by these open forum meetings. Where all current problems might be discussed and explained, each center or group that creates public opinion.

She outlined briefly the object of the league of women voters, an association not merely to promote the education of women but to furnish facts and secure law enforcement, it deals with issues, not with personalities.

The lecturer acquainted her hearers with the Sheppard-Towner bill better known as the maternity and infancy bill, which has already passed the senate and is now before the house. It provides for the care of the expectant mother as well as the child. A vocational bill caring for the training of children in some those who will never need or use the Latin, geometry and psychology taught in the schools was touched upon.

There are fourteen countries, other than the United States, where childbirth is made safer. Warlike nations demand the production of good children, hence good soldiers, physically fit.

Miss Breyfogle mentioned the Smith-Towner bill, which is designed to amend the naturalization laws demanding women to be naturalized same as men, not merely accepting a country because their husband does. Also if an American woman marries a foreigner, she will still claim her citizenship in America.

Perhaps the most effective of the speaker's remarks were centered on the revision of the School Code. More than 127,000 children over ten years of age in the state of Ohio can neither read nor write. "Is education for the rich or poor or for the masses," asked the speaker. Both the state and community should feel themselves responsible for all children and demand their attendance at school.

Idleness breeds crime and growing children should not be idle. Also the child that drops out of school makes an unskilled worker, eventually becoming dependent upon the community. As a solution to farm help needed, more machinery and neighborhood co-operation are suggested that farmers' children might be in school during the whole school year other than the few slack months, as is so often the case.

A startling fact given to the people was that a girl at sixteen may become a prostitute without state interference and may also be

employed: at eighteen she has reached her majority and may be a property holder, while she must be twenty-one to vote.

The western states are far in the lead along educational lines as well as many others, according to the lecturer.

Miss Breyfogle's closing remarks were "Ohio comes first in baseball, second in automobiles, third in hog raising and twelfth in education."

An informal reception and tea was enjoyed at the conclusion of the program.³⁷

It is interesting to note Caroline's reference to the woman's right to vote. As the reader may recall, the 19th amendment, giving women the right to vote, was passed by both houses of congress in 1919 and was ratified by 36 states necessary to amend the constitution by August 1920. It is not known how active Caroline Breyfogle was in the suffrage movement, but based on her speaking style and later work with the League of Women Voters it is not hard to imagine her speaking out for the right to vote.

Caroline also mentioned the Smith-Towner Bill in her address, which attempted to establish a federal education department and called for the distribution of \$100 million to the states in order to combat illiteracy and to advance Americanization, physical training and teacher education. The bill also delegated \$50 million to state public library expansion. Had it passed, it would have marked the first time libraries received federal funding.

She also mentioned the Sheppard-Towner Bill, also known as the Infancy and Maternity Bill. This bill, introduced in congress in 1918 and eventually passed by Congress in 1921, gave the federal government a direct role in child welfare in the area of health. In fact, Caroline was named to the executive committee to represent the Twelfth congressional district for the League of Women Voters as they continued to lobby for the passage of this bill.³⁸

In another article we note that this session was also scheduled for February 28, making this the second presentation of this presentation. Obviously Caroline's ability to engage an audience did not end when she left OSU.

Y.W.C.A. NEWS

By: Miss Marno Hay

Merely a word to remind you that all is in readiness for Miss Carolyn Breyfogle, dean of women at Ohio State university, who comes to lecture this evening on "The Coming Legislature."

³⁷ Coshocton Tribune, Coshocton, OH, February 9, 1921

³⁸ The Marion Daily Star, Marion, OH, June 1, 1921

Seven thirty is the hour, so sign up for this course of addresses, for only fifty cents, to cover the costs.³⁹

In an April 12, 1921 article titled, "League of Women Voters Gets Busy" Caroline is mentioned as representing the city of Columbus, Ohio. This was the second annual convention of the League of Women Voters and was held at the Hotel Statler in Cleveland, Ohio. This conference received considerable press with Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Mrs. Catherine Waugh McCulloch, Honorable Jeannette Rankin and Mrs. Costigan, wife of Honorable Edward P. Costigan of the federal tariff commission who acted as chairman on various committees.⁴⁰

Toward the end of 1921 a news article appeared in Ohio that mentioned Miss Caroline Breyfogle of Columbus would be addressing a disarmament meeting. Our research indicates that the "Manifesto on Disarmament" was a resolution formulated at the July 1921 WILPF (Women's International League For Peace And Freedom) Congress at Vienna, the organization's third international meeting. Delegates addressed the problem of increased military expenditures since the end of the First World War. They believed that another arms race could only lead to greater international competition and war.

Nothing more is known of this meeting or what the subject of her remarks was at this meeting.

In April of 1922 Caroline Breyfogle was named as a delegate for Columbus, Ohio to the national convention of the League and in May of 1923 Caroline participated in the State Convention of the League of Women Voters. "The convention opened Tuesday evening with a meeting of the Executive board. Wednesday morning at nine o'clock the delegates began to arrive in large numbers and by noon there were nearly twice as many registered as last year. The informal reception line was headed by Miss Caroline Breyfogle, president of the Columbus league."⁴¹

The 1930 Federal Census for Columbus, Ohio showed Caroline as head of her household, living alone on East Broad Street. She is listed as retired, and would have been 69 years old. The final publication that mentions Caroline Breyfogle at this point in our research is her brief obituary.

First Dean Dies

Miss Carolyn [SIC] Breyfogel, 80, Ohio State's first dean of women, succumbed in Columbus, Oct. 14, after a protracted illness.

Miss Breyfogle came to the University in 1912 following agitation on the part of Women's Student Council and women graduates, especially the Alumnae Club of Cleveland, who were interested in improving living conditions of women students at the University.

³⁹ Coshocton Tribune, Coshocton, OH, February 28, 1921

⁴⁰ Mansfield News, Mansfield, OH April 12, 1921

⁴¹ The Chronicle Telegram, Elyria, OH, May 19, 1923

The Late dean served the University for six years. During her administration certain rules for improved housing of women were passed, self-governing powers were given to Women's Student Council, student loan funds were initiated, and late in 1917 funds were appropriated for Pomerene Hall, women's union.

Her only survivors are nieces and nephews. Interment was made in Columbus.⁴²

As a final word about her life, the Ohio State Lantern, Wednesday, September 24, 1986 mentions the following:

Buckeye Roots

On September 24, 1912, Dr. Caroline Breyfogle was elected the first Dean of Women. She resigned this position in 1918. The office of Dean of Women was incorporated into the Office of Student Life in the '70's.

It seems sad, to this writer, that a woman with such credentials, strength, and vision should pass with just a few words on the bottom of a page of the Alumni news. Our research into her life continues but it seems it seems that the organizations she worked with (YWCA, League of Women Voters, etc) do not have any further biographical information about her. We present this work in the hope that those reading it may be inspired to help us in our search for information about her life.

⁴² The Ohio State University Monthly, November 1941, p - 2